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Drawing Amendments

There are no amendments to the drawings.

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Remarks

The Office Action of 02/21/2008 rejected claims 1, 6, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,457,043 of W.I. Kwak, et al. (hereafter referred to as Kwak). Also, the Office Action rejected claims 2, 7, and 12, as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kwak in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0135583 of C.P. Kardos (hereafter referred to as Kardos). In addition, the Office Action rejected claims 4 and 14 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kwak in view of Kardos and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,826,159 of S. Shaffer, et al. (hereafter referred to as Shaffer) and U.S. Patent No. 6,782,413 of S.D. Loveland, et al. (hereafter referred to as Loveland). Also, the Office Action rejected claims 5 and 10 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kwak in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0125954 of J.F. Bradley, et al. (hereafter referred to as Bradley). Further, the Office Action rejected claim 15 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kardos in view of Kwak. Also, the Office Action rejected claims 16-25 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kwak in view of Kardos and further in view of Bradley. Claims 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 21, and 23-25 are being amended. Claims 1-5, 7, 12, 15-20, and 22 are being

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canceled. The specification is being amended for greater conformity to 35 U.S.C. §101.

Amendments made with respect to 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 21 and 23-25 now recite "computer-readable medium" and "computer-executable instructions" rather than "processor-readable medium" and "processor-executable instructions", respectively, so as to be in greater conformity with 35 U.S.C. §101. The specification has also been amended to be in greater conformity with 35 U.S.C. §101.

Rejection of claims 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Kwak

Support for the amendments made to claims 6 and 11 may be found in the specification at page 5, line 25 through page 6, line 12, page 8, lines 14-22, and page 12, lines 1-4..

Amended claim 6 recites the following:

A method for performing participant identification in a conference of a plurality of participants, comprising the steps of:
performing a simple speech algorithm to detect a change in an active participant among a set of the plurality of participants using an endpoint telecommunication unit by the endpoint telecommunication unit whereby the speech algorithm only determines the change in the active participant and not the identity of the active participant;
signaling the detected change to a conference unit by the endpoint telecommunication unit; and
determining the identity of a new active participant of the set of the plurality of participants by the conference unit performing voice recognition to identify the new active participant in response to the signaled change whereby the conference unit processes speech information from only the endpoint telecommunication unit.

Amended claim 6 recites that an endpoint telecommunication unit which is providing access to a

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conference for a set of participants to the conference only performs a simple speech algorithm to detect when a new active participant of the set of participants using the endpoint telecommunication unit starts to speak. The endpoint telecommunication unit then signals the conference unit that a new active participant has started to speak on the endpoint telecommunication unit. In response to the signal from the endpoint telecommunication unit, the conference unit performs voice recognition to identify the new active participant. These operations have the advantage that the endpoint telecommunication unit does not have to perform voice recognition which in the case of an IP telephone could exceed the processing capabilities of the IP telephone. In addition, since the conferencing unit only has to perform voice recognition to determine a new active participant when a signal is received from the endpoint telecommunication unit, this greatly reduces the processing requirements of the conferencing unit. Without such a signal, the conferencing unit would constantly have to perform voice recognition on all voice information being received from endpoints of the conference to determine if a new participant was speaking. In a large conference, this requirement would place an enormous processing load on the conferencing unit.

The Office Action states on page 2 that Kwak teaches "detecting a change in an active participant among a set of plurality of participants using an endpoint telecommunication

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unit by the endpoint telecommunication unit (Fig. 1 20B) (column 8 lines 9-16); and, signaling the detected change to a conference unit (conference manager-Fig. 1 22 and multi point control unit, MCU, and Speaker ID Service-Fig. 4 50B and 52B column 2 lines 13-16; column 10 lines 46-47) (column 4 lines 3-22)." Kwak discloses that the new active participant activates an identification button when the new participant starts to speak in the text cited by the Office Action in column 8. It is the activation of this identification button that the endpoint telecommunication unit detects before signaling the conference unit. However, amended claim 6 clearly recites that the endpoint telecommunication unit performs a simple speech algorithm to detect a change in an active participant.

With respect to the step of determining a new participant of the set of the participants by the conference unit, the Office Action on pages 2 and 3 states "determining a new participant...by the conference unit in response to signaled change (Fig. 5 208, 210 and column 7 lines 64-column 8 line 3; column 8 lines 9-16)". The text in Kwak at column 8, lines 9-32, is very clear that speaker identifier 40 (Speaker ID service 52) does not perform voice recognition to identify the new active participant but rather determines this identity based on which identification button was pushed. Further, the text at column 4, line 3-10, is very clear that speaker identifier 40 is only responsive to the identification switches to determine the identity of a new active participant. In addition, dominant party

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identifier 32 does not perform voice recognition to determine who the dominant party is. The text in Kwak at column 3, lines 61-65, is very clear that dominant party identifier 32 is not performing voice recognition. However, amended claim 6 clearly recites "determining the identity of a new active participant of the set of the plurality of participants by the conference unit performing voice recognition to identify the new active participant in response to the signaled change".

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 6 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) and is not anticipated by Kwak.

Applicants also are respectfully submit that amended claim 11 is also patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) for the same reasons as amended claim 6.

Rejection of claims 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kwak in view of Kardos

Claims 6 and 11 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Kwak in view of Kardos; however, canceled claims 7 and 12 which were directly dependent on claim 6 and 11, respectfully, were rejected on this basis. The Office Action relies on Kardos to disclose that a endpoint telecommunication unit utilizes speech processing to identify the new active participant. Kardos discloses a system in which each endpoint telecommunication unit (referred to as devices) identifies the speaker on the device and transmits the identification information of that speaker to the other devices for display

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purposes. The identification information is not transmitted to a conferencing system. In addition, Kardos discloses that each device does voice recognition rather than performing a simple speech algorithm which only determines a change in speakers as is recited in amended claims 6 and 11. Since Kardos discloses a system where the devices (endpoint telecommunication units) perform a complete voice recognition identification of a new active participant, there would be no need for the conferencing system to perform such voice recognition. However, amended claims 6 and 11 are very clear that the conference unit performs voice recognition to identify the new active participant.

Applicants submit in view of the foregoing, that amended claims 6 and 11 are patentable over Kwak and Kardos under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Rejection of claims 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kwak in view of Kardos

Amended claims 8 and 13 are directly dependent on amended claims 6 and 11, respectfully, and are patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claims 6 and 11.

Rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kwak in view of Kardos and further in view of Schaffer and further in view of Loveland

Amended claim 14 is directly dependent on amended claim 11 and is patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 11. The Office Action only cited Schaffer and Loveland as disclosing that the endpoint telecommunication

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unit is connected to a remote switch and that the remote switch performs the simple speech algorithm to detect a change in an active participant. Note, that neither Schaffer or Loveland discloses or suggest the performance of a simple speech algorithm as is recited in amended claim 11 nor does the text cited by the Office Action disclose such a algorithm.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 14 is patentable over the cited references under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kwak in view of Bradley

Amended claim 10 is directly dependent on amended claim 6 and is patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 6 since the Office Action only utilized Bradley as disclosing the use of a speakerphone on a conference call.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 10 is patentable over the cited references under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Rejection of claims 21 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kwak in view of Kardos and further in view of Bradley

Support for the amendments made to claim 21 may be found in the specification at page 5, line 25 through page 6, line 12, page 8, lines 14-22, and page 12, lines 1-4.

Amended claim 21 recites the following:

A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions configured for:
performing a simple speech algorithm to detect a change in an active participant among a set of the plurality of participants

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using an endpoint telecommunication unit by the endpoint telecommunication unit whereby the speech algorithm only determines the change in the active participant and not the identity of the active participant;

signaling the detected change to a conference unit by the endpoint telecommunication unit; and

determining the identity of a new active participant of the set of the plurality of participants by the conference unit performing voice recognition to identify the new active participant in response to the signaled change whereby the conference unit processes speech information from only the endpoint telecommunication unit.

Amended claim 21 recites that computer-executable instructions in an endpoint telecommunication unit which is providing access to a conference for a set of participants to the conference only perform a simple speech algorithm to detect when a new active participant of the set of participants using the endpoint telecommunication unit starts to speak. Other computer-executable instructions in the endpoint telecommunication unit then signal the conference unit that a new active participant has started to speak on the endpoint telecommunication unit. In response to the signal from the endpoint telecommunication unit, computer-executable instructions in the conference unit perform voice recognition to identify the new active participant. These operations have the advantage that the endpoint telecommunication unit does not have to perform voice recognition which in the case of an IP telephone could exceed the processing capabilities of the IP telephone. In addition, since the conferencing unit only has to perform voice recognition to determine a new active participant when a signal is received from the endpoint telecommunication

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unit, this greatly reduces the processing requirements of the conferencing unit. Without such a signal, the conferencing unit would constantly have to perform voice recognition on all voice information being received from endpoints of the conference to determine if a new participant was speaking. In a large conference, this requirement would place an enormous processing load on the conferencing unit.

Kwak discloses the new active participant activates an identification button when a new participant starts to speak in column 8, lines 9-16. It is the activation of this identification by that the endpoint telecommunication unit detects before signaling the conference unit. However, amended claim 21 clearly recites that computer-executable instructions in the endpoint telecommunication unit perform a simple speech algorithm to detect a change in an active participant.

With respect to computer-executable instructions for determining a new participant of the set of the participants in the conference unit, the text in Kwak at column 8, lines 9-32, is very clear that speaker identifier 40 (Speaker ID service 52) does not perform voice recognition to identify the new active participant but rather determines this identity based on which identification button was pushed. Further, the text in Kwak at column 4, line 3-10, is very clear that speaker identifier 40 is only responsive to the identification switches to determine the identity of a new active participant. In addition, dominant party identifier 32 does not perform voice recognition to determine

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who the dominant party is. The text in Kwak at column 3, lines 61-65, is very clear that dominant party identifier 32 is not performing voice recognition. However, amended claim 21 clearly recites "determining the identity of a new active participant of the set of the plurality of participants by the conference unit performing voice recognition to identify the new active participant in response to the signaled change".

Kardos discloses a system in which each endpoint telecommunication unit (referred to as devices) identifies the speaker on the device and transmits the identification information of that speaker to the other devices for display purposes. The identification information is not transmitted to a conferencing system. In addition, Kardos discloses that each device does voice recognition rather than performing a simple speech algorithm which only determines a change in speakers as is recited in amended claim 21. Since Kardos discloses a system where the devices (endpoint telecommunication units) perform a complete voice recognition identification of a new active participant, there would be no need for the conferencing system to perform such voice recognition. However, amended claim 21 is very clear that the conference unit performs voice recognition to identify the new active participant.

The Office Action only relies on Bradley to disclose the utilization of the computer-executable instructions.

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In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 21 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kwak in view of Kardos and further in view of Bradley.

Applicants also respectfully submit that amended claims 23-25 are directly dependent on amended claim 21 and are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) for at least the same reasons as amended claim 21.

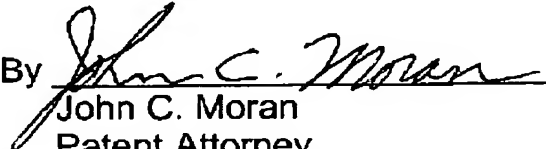
Summary

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request consideration of claims 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 21, and 23-25, as amended, reconsideration of claim 10, and allowance of these claims.

Although the foregoing is believed to be dispositive of the issues in the application, if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully,

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